

**Sent on behalf of Cllr Melinda Tilley**

Dear colleagues

As you are aware from Lucy Butler's letter of 17/3/16, the timeframe for implementing the integrated service has changed.

Given this change in timescale, I have agreed to the continuation of Children's Centre contracts and Hub funding until 31st March 2017.

The reason that contracts and budgets are being extended to the end of March 2017 is due to having to put back the Cabinet decision until May. We also want to build in flexibility to the integration programme so that we can ensure that the transition plan, i.e. moving from the old service to the new, is implemented and co-ordinated effectively, both ensuring that operational priorities continue to be delivered whilst being sensitive to staff and service user concerns during a period of significant change. This more flexible time scale helps with this difficult process.

As a result of the extension to the contracts, Children's Centres and Hubs will receive a budget allowance from September 2016 until 31st March 2017. There will be a small percentage reduction in light of financial pressures, and centres and hubs will be written to with details of this once known.

The eleven centres with on-site child care will receive a budget until 31st March, and as described in the Cabinet report of 23rd February, we will continue to support these centres with a view to making them financially sustainable.

If you wish to discuss this further or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Lucy Butler ([lucy.butler@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.butler@oxfordshire.gov.uk)) or Maria Godfrey ([maria.godfrey@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:maria.godfrey@oxfordshire.gov.uk)), or send questions to [eiservicesreview@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:eiservicesreview@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work for the children and families of Oxfordshire at this time of significant change.

**Cllr Melinda Tilley**

Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families